

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

New York, Sept. 7, 1922.

Mr. Charles Clarke,  
Schenectady Office.

Dear Mr. Clarke:-

*Postmarked Sept. 11th  
Recd. 9/13/22  
R.A.C.*

I understand that in 1915 at the time you testified in a rate case of the Philadelphia Company you prepared a report which included extracts from the minutes of the lighting companies and associations, as well as statistics, patents, etc. I have been trying to collect information with respect to the early lighting situation, it being my understanding and belief that the first central stations were built for the purpose of furnishing electric current for lighting purposes, and that for various reasons there grew up a business of furnishing the current for power purposes, and later for heating devices. I understand that the first lamps were arc lamps and later, the incandescent lamp.

There are a great many people who believe that the development of the incandescent electric lamp was the very foundation of all subsequent electrical development, and even today, the extension of central station service is in a very large degree primarily for the purpose of furnishing current for lighting purposes, and that the other uses of that current are built up as an incident to the lighting business. So that, the incandescent lamp is responsible not only for the development of the central station as it exists at the present time, but has been primarily responsible in furnishing an avenue for the introduction of electrical supplies, heating devices, etc., and

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that we would not now have the large number of electrical apparatus and device manufacturers in existence, nor would there be the amount of employment in such factories open to laborers, etc., nor the amount of money invested in the electrical industry, had it not been for the influence of the incandescent electric lamp.

Mr. Moot of the Law Department suggested that I write you for your ideas along the lines of the above for references to the facts. I will greatly appreciate it if you will do this.

Yours very truly,

*Charles W. Clarke*

CWA.F